enough – homes

Chair of architecture and attitude - Prof. Jan De Vylder ETH Wohnforum - ETH CASE

The inner densification strategies of the last 10 years have led to a redevelopment of Zurich — the replacement of existing matter, displacement of people, but also placement of many new housing units. Still, the city faces a housing shortage: The vacancy rate is 0.06 %, which is equivalent to 144 flats. We wonder — how can there be enough? Where can we still find it? With this studio, we want to give a platform to research and develop alternatives of habitation within an existing context, a grown but ever changing city. It will be about exploring housing models, about unexpected ways of incorporating, using, appropriating and including the existing. We want to search for concepts, legislations, but also precise interventions and spatial proposals for a dense, lively constellation of new and old. With the following set of questions we will start the discussion:

How do we live today?

How close can we live together?

Who shares a home and for what kind of reasons?

What do people tell you about their experience?

Where are we (not) allowed to live and why?

Who owns these spaces and how does it affect our living?

Who is excluded by the segments of housing?

How do we wish to live together?

Which spatial, functional and organisational amenities are needed?

And what may happen next?

The Diploma in 3 MOVEMENTS:

(PREPARATION PHASE)

Movement I: observe Movement II: experiment

During the preparation phase we will work in two movements, where we will debate, research, investigate and experiment. The goal is to explore alternative strategies of living within the existing city. Movement I is about discovering potential moments of intervention by strolling through the city, documenting, discussing, calculating, measuring and drawing. In Movement II we want to experiment with these discoveries and make them productive. These two movements will be structured by collective moments of debate and exploration. The preparation phase shall provoke individually developed conclusions. The preparation phase will be supported by ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE with inputs on findings from housing studies and on social science methodology.

(ELABORATION PHASE)

Movement III: imagine

Based on the findings and experiments of Movement I and II, an architectural project will be developed in Movement III. The proposal should be seen as a reaction to the findings of the preparation phase, be it on a material, social, ecological or any other level of your interest. Guided by the %-attitude, we want to imagine a possible future, inspired and provoked by what we can find in our surroundings. Where the journey will lead we don't know yet, but we will dive into a process of debating, drawing, writing, measuring, building - and end up with architectural projects which hopefully go beyond our imagination.